Grande Prairie Herald
Historical Edition.

F.J.H. BEDSON

Frederick Joseph Hamilton Bedson was born in Toronto, Ontario. After attending the local public and high schools he graduated from Trinity College, Port Hope.

With a background of illustrious military and adventurous parentage, it was but natural that at the age of nineteen he should turn his eyes westward.

Enlisting with the Hudson's Bay Company in the spring of 1887, Mr. Bedson was sent to Dunvegan Post on the Peace River. It customarily required five years to serve an apprentice-ship, but in the case of Fred Bedson, the time was advanced to three, so in 1890 we find him as Factor, not only of the Dunvegan Post, but of what is now known as the Grande Prairie country. He continued to serve the Company until 1914 when he retired to his farm midway between Rycroft and Spirit River adjoining the old original Spirit River Post.

On July 4th, 1907, Mr. Bedson was married to Eliza Johnston at Lesser Slave Lake. Miss Johnston, came of pioneer western stock being a native of Lower Fort Garry near what is now Winnipeg, Manitoba. After twenty-five years of happy married life, she passed on in September, 1932, and now rests in the Spirit River Cemetery.

Mr. Bedson's father, Sergt. Samuel Lawrence Bedson was of true British military stock. He served 20 years in the 1st Battl. 16th Regiment before coming to Canada, then served until June 1865 in the regular garrison at

Quebed Citadel before obtaining his discharge. Later removed to Toronto where for several years he served as Chief of Police. He died in 1897 at the age of seventy-five.

F.J.H.Bedson is still in enjoyment of good health and active in all community enterprises, the Anglican Church and the Masonic order.

MRS. ELIZA J. BEDSON

Miss Eliza Johnston was born at Lower Fort Garry, her parents Mr. and Mrs. James Johnston having come out from Ontario long ahead of the onward march of western settlement.

Having two brothers, Malcolm and Murdock, who early became interested in the far north-west, it is not surprising to find this western girl penetrating into the Peace River country very early in life. For a few years she was with her brother Murdock at Athabasca Landing and later at Athabasca Landing and Shaftesbury assisting in teaching and missionary work.

On July 4th, 1907, she married Fred J.H. Bedson and came to Dunvegan to make her home. For the following twenty-five years the good deeds of this pioneer lady were sung throughout many miles of the northland, she being ever ready to set aside her own affairs to administer to the body or soul of those in need.

On September 16th, 1932, she passed peacefully on but left a memory that will long remain green.

Both brothers, Murdock and Malcolm are dead, after useful careers devoted to missionary work. One brother, Samuel survives, living at Wabasca and one sister, Mrs. Fred Webster resides in Winnipeg.